

# Sequachee Valley News.

VOL. 4.

SEQUACHEE, TENN., THURSDAY, FEB., 25, 1897.

NO. 34.

## LOCAL.

Wash Watley was in town Sunday.

Marion Moss, of Whitwell, was in town Friday.

W. S. Pryor went to Whitwell Wednesday.

Edgar Smith and family left for Texas Monday.

Job printing done neatly and nicely at this office.

L. W. Gabel was in Chatanooga one day last week.

James Thompson got off the train here Friday evening.

Tom Richards started for Fort Worth, Texas, Monday.

Miss Sarah Ables was visiting at Granville Brown's Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Roberson spent last Friday in Jasper.

Levi Bowlin returned from a visit to Florence, Ala., Saturday.

Mr. W. L. Melcher and G. Sherman spent Thursday in Jasper.

Messrs. Ingersoll Jones and Johnson, of Jasper, were in town Monday.

Mr. G. W. Lewis, of Victoria, paid us a pleasant visit last Monday.

Spring has not come. It is not due until March 20th, but people have a "hitching" to get to gardening.

The Pryor Institute boys had a vacation last Monday—Washington's Birthday.

Charlie Curtis, who is attending school at Jasper, visited home folks this week.

Mathew Pryor and Sam Rogers returned from Chattanooga Tuesday. Work gave out.

Bank Deeds, Mortgage Deeds and Chattel Mortgage Deeds for sale, at the News office.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Richards and children are visiting relatives up the Valley this week.

Miss Maude Clarke, of Jasper, was the guest of Misses Annie and Maude Brown Sunday afternoon.

Chancery Court convened at Jasper Monday. A number of our people went down to attend it, interested or otherwise.

Charlie Johnson, the collar and harness maker, reports that he is meeting with much success in the disposal of his manufactures.

Harve Carnes brought us a wild turkey last week and it was great. Mr. Carnes has our very best compliments for his thoughtfulness.

The public entertainment announced for last Monday night at Pryor Institute, Jasper, was postponed until Friday night on account of rainy weather.

When you take the News and pay for it one year in advance, remember that by paying ten cents more you can also have the Tri-State Farmer for one year.

Who knows what a "hatchet" party is? The people of West Tennessee are indulging in this kind of dissipation, and as the guests attend in costume, "poverty" or otherwise we judge it must be something like a tacky party.

## Receivers Appointed.

Messrs. W. L. Melcher and G. Sherman were appointed by the Chancery Court, Judge McConnell, Tuesday to act as receivers for the Sequachee Valley Coal & Iron Co., for sixty days.

The outlook for Sequachee is very dismal indeed. The hotel was to have been covered in this spring but frightened by a technicality the projectors have abandoned the enterprise. Nothing will be done for perhaps years, as this suit will be prolonged indefinitely, and even if a sale of the property should take place it will be at such a low figure as to be practically worthless as far as any of the present bondholders are concerned. Moreover it would also knock out the stock held by the stockholders and thus some of those who have been most energetic and friendly to the interests of the town would be deprived of even the mere bit of paper that represented their interests. It is a very dismal outlook any way that you take it, and we can see nothing to encourage. After years of waiting the bottom seems to have been knocked out of the whole concern as far as further development is concerned.

## Snow in the Northwest.

The Milwaukee company began again Wednesday morning to open up their road north west and south. The road west and north was completely blocked yesterday and both trains in those directions were abandoned, the officials considering it safer to keep their trains crew and passengers here than to run the risk of leaving them out on the prairie all night. Early today trains and snow plows were sent west and it is thought that no difficulty will be experienced in sending trains through tonight. The passenger train which arrived from the south yesterday afternoon was turned back Wednesday, but did not leave town until afternoon on account of a freight train being stuck in the snow near Ethan. Mitchell, S. D., Capital.

The frogs are getting in their work now and rival the uproar of a caucus or ratification meeting. The catkins have also appeared and several trees in the vicinity have made perceptible efforts to put forth. Spring is coming and with it "that tired feeling."

Miss Sarah Ables is teaching a subscription school, having opened at the school house Monday morning. Send your children along and make this take the place of the spring term of the public school, which should be but is not.

Last Sunday night the temperature stood at an even seventy and it was actually hot for this season of the year. Monday was very sultry and that afternoon we had the first thunder storm of the season.

When bilious or constive, eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c, 25c.

Edgar Pryor was in Jasper last Tuesday.

## GROUND HOG DAY.

Its Origin, Its Myths and Its Observance.

Published by request.

Our Saxon fathers named the months from some characteristic manifestation of nature. February was the month of sprout-kale, and March was the wind month, but during the dominance of the Roman church the days of the month were designated, not as the tenth or twelfth, but from the nearest saint in the calendar. In the "Patson Letters," that mine of antiquarian delights which so vividly represents the household life of the Fifteenth Century, there is scarcely a letter which is not thus dated, as on "the Thursday next before St. Agatha's," "the Monday after St. Michaels," "the Wednesday next after St. Paul's" a curious mingling of honor to Woden and Thor with sacred feasts of a more enduring faith.

The festival of candlemas, the synchronous celebration of the presentation and of the purification, was probably instituted as such by the Bishop Gelasius in the reign of Justinian, but it is without doubt a more ancient observance and one of the legacies of a dying cult. "Great Pan is dead," but his worship lingers in many an unconscious service. Candlemas, occurring as it does on the second of February, may well be the survival of the Roman Lupercalia, the Februia, or rites of lustration performed on the 15th of that month centuries before the Babe lay in the manger at Bethlehem.

The use of candles, although considered typical of the prophetic words of Simeon, "A light to lighten the Gentiles," is probably the relic of that feature of the Lupercalia, when during during days of riotous license under the cloak of pious ceremonies, the people ran hither and thither carrying candle to represent the torch with which Demeter sought her lost Persephone through the plains of Eanna. Beautiful myth—symbolizing so much truth, spiritual and physical—far Persephone, re-incarnate in the daffodils, which sprang up on the banks of Cyane! The transition from the Lupercalia to Candlemas was but one of the many compromises by which pagan customs were baptized with Christian names.

In England the best tribute to the day is given by the opening snowdrops—"Candlemas Bells," "Fair Maids of February," one of the many flowers dedicated to Mary, and formerly called the Purification Flower. Henry VIII., by special proclamation in 1539, permitted the use of candles and the further observance of the day, for neither Henry nor his daughter in their nominal Protestantism renounced the pageantry of Rome. In every English parish, the Christmas greens were removed from church and home on Candlemas Eve, a custom prettily told by Herrick:

Down with the rosemary, and so  
Down with the bays and mistletoe;  
Down with the holly, ivy, and all  
Wherewith ye dressed the Christmas Hall,

That so the superstitious find  
Not one least branch there left behind,  
For look, how many branches  
There be  
Neglected, there (maidens trust to me),

So many goblins you shall see.

In the morning, the Yule log, which had burned until Twelfth Night, or Old Christmas, was relighted:

Kindle the Christmas brand, and then  
Till sunset let it burn,  
When quench'd, then lay it up again  
Till Christmas next return.

Part must be kept wherewith to teend  
The Christmas log next year,  
And where 'tis safely kept, the fiend  
Can do no mischief there.

In Scotland, where the time is of some official importance as the chief quarter day, great fires called the "Candlemas bleese"—glimmerings from the ashes of the long extinct worship of Baal—were lighted on the hilltops, and woe betide that neighborhood where for any reason the fire did not burn the livelong night.

Candlemas is one of the few festivals of the church of which Paganism has left no tradition is popular parlance. This may be because it is a noteworthy "observance day," and in every northern land there cluster about it proved predictions of the duration of winter. It is the one day of the year when the sun is unwelcome. A German proverb declares the shepherd would rather see the wolf in his fold than the sun on Candlemas Day. The story of the bear who rouses himself from his long slumber, and comes out of his hole, returning to sleep six weeks longer if he sees his shadow, is told of the woodchuck (or groundhog) and in many countries, of the badger and other hibernating animals.

A Scotch saw runs thus:

If Candleman be dry and fair,  
The half o' winter to come and mair.

If Candlemas be wet and foul  
The half o' winter's gane at Yule.

Its substance is embodied in our own saying—"Half your wood and half your hay on Candlemas Day," a practical measure of the winter store. The general meteorological truths crystallized in these proverbs, many of them hoary with the rime of ages, are obvious to one who studies the "skiey influences," and they may thus tend to preserve something of our vanishing fireside lore.

If, as has been well said, popular customs contain the germs of history it is equally true that the current beliefs and even the superstitions of a people are the seedfields of philosophy and of sociology, from which may be reaped a rich harvest.—New York Evening Post

## Resolution of Sympathy.

At regular meeting Feb. 13, 1897, of Post 53, G. A. R., the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS our ranks are again broken by the death of our comrade, William T. Mosgrove, it is

RESOLVED, That we extend our sympathy and condolence to his widow and surviving children.

THOMAS H. HILL,  
JOSEPH GREEN,  
NICHOLAS FULFUR, } Com.

Mr. W. A. Manzy, of Victoria, was in town Friday and kindly handed us the full and complete history of Candlemas, or Ground Hog Day, to date. Other sections are requested to let us hear from them in order that the question of the date of this memorable occasion may be fully settled. We print the article in full and think it contains some very interesting reading.

## Gems of Art.

Through the kindness of Mr. Philip A. Butler, the art editor of the News has been allowed to examine several very remarkable pen and ink sketches executed by Messrs. Copeland and Bartholemew, of Boston. In one of these the editor of the News and a friend are represented as taking a drive behind a despondent looking mule that quite evidently needs to be newly upholstered. The faces of the driver and his companion may be slightly idealized, but the mule is true to nature and the look of deep dejection on the countenances of all three would move a heart of soapstone. In another an artist is trying to sell one of his paintings to a true daughter of the sunny south, a magnificent charcoal brantette, who appears to be deeply moved by his eloquence. But the most striking picture in the entire collection is one entitled, "The Return from the Bear Hunt." In this a hunter who seems to be a genuine Massachusetts Yankee, is so intent on getting home in time for dinner that he is leaving "footprints on the sands of time" about fourteen feet apart. A short distance behind him is a lively Tennessee bear that evidently does not intend to lose a dinner even if the hunter does.

These sketches have been shown to many of our citizens and have received lavish praise. "I have visited many art exhibitions but have never seen anything like them," said one. "At least not since I took the Keely Cure," he added hastily. "Were there ever any such artists in these parts?" we inquired of an old resident who was studying "The Return from the Bear Hunt." "I reckon thar was one, but he died suddint like," he replied. "Yas, suddint like," he repeated reflectively, "an' we haint had a lynchin' here sence."

But perhaps the most glowing testimonial to the merit of these works of art is contained in a letter received by Mr. Butler, which we copy by permission:

"Mistur Butler,  
"Dear Sur:  
"Mi littel jonny uster have Fitts, but he straid inter yure Stewdeo I da an seen the picturs Drord bi yure Bostin frens an He hant had but 1 fitt sence.  
"Yours Afexshnnetly,  
"Bil Toliver.  
"P. S. the Fitt he had when he seen the Picturs kild him."

## Without A Rival.

As a positive cure for sprains, bruises, and pains of all kinds, Salvation Oil has no equal. Mrs. Frank Jull, 518 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, Mich., writes: "I used Salvation Oil in my family and can say it has no rival as a liniment; it certainly cures pains. I sprained my ankle and it cured me and since then I have always used it for any pains and bruises." Salvation Oil is sold for only 25 cents. No other remedy will do the work as promptly.

## NOTICE!

For full information regarding the DeLoach Mill machinery etc., apply at this office. Jan 7 ly

Ripans Tablets cure liver troubles.